

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ARA-10 /092 W

-----048305 040824Z /21

P 011612Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2049

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMOASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITH

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2367

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 7437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US, NI, XF

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN POSITION ON EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC
FRONT AS EXPLAINED IN LAGOS

REF: LIBREVILLE 1632 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN HAS RETRATED FROM HARDLINE POSITION
IN FAVOR OF PATRIOTIC FRONT IT TOOK AT ALC MEETING IN LUSAKA,
BUT WILL NOT TAKE LEAD IN OPPOSING A MOVE TO GRANT EXCLUSIVE
RECOGNITION TO THE FRONT AT LIBREVILLE AS GARBA DID IN LOME.
WHATEVER ACTION OAU TAKES, FMG WILL RESERVE RIGHT TO DEAL
WITH ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND LEADERS. IN NIGERIAN
VIEW, MOST PRESSING ISSUE BEFORE OAU IS THAT OF RHODESIAN
INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE, NOT RECOGNITION OF LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS. IN THIS REGARD, FMG EXPECTS THERE WILL BE "SOME
COUNTRIES" WHICH WILL PROVIDE MOZAMBIQUE MILITARY ASSISTANCE
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE JUST ADOPTED UN SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING DISCUSSION SEVERAL MATTERS WITH O. ADESOLA,
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, POLCOUNS ASKED FOR IMMARY OF CURRENT
FMG ATTITUDE TOWARD EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC
FRONTS(PF). ADESOLA, WHO WAS FOR SOME TIME ASSIGNED TO
THE AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE (ALC) IN DAR AND WHO WAS

MEMBER OF NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO THIS YEAR'S LUSAKA MEETING
OF THE ALC, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) NIGERIA HAS RETREATED FROM HARDLINE POSITION IN
FAVOR OF EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF PF WHICH IT ADOPTED AT
LUSAKA. NEITHER NKOMO NOR MUGABE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE
FMG THAT FRONT SHOULD BE ACCORDED EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION.
ACCORDING TO ADESOLA, PRESIDENT NYERERE IS NO LONGER AS
STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE FRONT AS HE ONCE WAS. NEVERTHELESS,
FMG WILL NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN OPPOSING A MOVE AT LIBREVILLE
TO HAVE THE OAU GRANT THE PF EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION. THIS
REPRESENTS A PULL BACK FROM THE STANCE NIGERIA TOOK AT THE
LOME OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE
LUSAKA MEETING. IN LOME, COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA
ENERGETICALLY OPPOSED A MOVE TO GRANT THE FRONT EXCLUSIVE
RECOGNITION.

(B) NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO OAU LIBREVILLE MEETING
THEREFORE HAS BEEN GIVEN A "LIBERAL MANDATE" AND SHOULD BE
EXPECTED TO GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY VIEW ON THE ISSUE.
WHATEVER THE OAU DECIDES, HOWEVER, NIGERIAN WILL "RESERVE
THE RIGHT" TO DEAL WITH ALL LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS AND LEADERS,
INCLUDING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE. ASKED
IF AN OAU DECISION
TO GRANT EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION WOULD NOT CIRCUMSCRIBE
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NIGERIAN OPTIONS IN THIS RESPECT, ADESOLA REITERATED THAT
THE FMG WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL MOVEMENTS. FMG
WOULD PREFER THAT ALL RHODESIAN LIBERATION GROUPS COULD COME
TOGETHER UNDER ONE UMBRELLA BUT RECOGNIZES THAT IS NOT LIKELY
TO HAPPEN.

(C) MAJOR ISSUE FACING OAU IN FMG'S VIEW IS NOT WHICH
LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO RECOGNIZE BUT RATHER THE
CONTINUING RHODESIAN INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. NIGERIA IS
CONCERNED THAT SMITH'S ACTIONS WILL LEAD TO RACIAL CONFLICT
INVOLVING MUCH OF AFRICA. ADESOLA COMMENTED FMG DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND SMITH'S IMMEDIATE INTENTIONS. FMG CONSIDERS SMITH
UNTRUSTWORTHY AND WILL NOT DEAL
WITH HIM. FMG HOPES THAT
U.S. WILL HELP CONVINCE THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER TO REACH A
SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT.

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2050

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 7437

(D) REFERRING TO A BBC NEWS COMMENTARY WHICH HE HEARD

THIS MORNING, ADESOLA REMARKED THAT THOSE WHO BELIEVED ONLY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED MOZAMBIQUE UNDER TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION JUST ADOPTED BY THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WERE MISTAKEN. THERE WILL BE "SOME COUNTRIES" WHO WILL "WANT" TO SUPPLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

2. COMMENT: FMG OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT FAVOR EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF THE NKOMO/MUGABE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THE INABILITY OF THE VARIOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO GET TOGETHER, COUPLED WITH RHODESIAN MILITARY ACTION IN MOZAMBIQUE HAVE LED NIGERIANS TO DECIDE THE RECOGNITION ISSUE IS NOT WORTH A BIG FIGHT IN LIBREVILLE. APPARENTLY FMG IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT A WIDESCALE WAR MIGHT BREAK OUT IN SOUTHERN
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AFRICA WHICH WOULD INVOLVE THE INTERVENTION OF EXTRA-CONTINENTAL POWERS. THOUGH LEFT UNNAMED, ADESOLA CLEARLY MEANT TO INCLUDE THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA IN THIS GROUP. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY FROM FMG'S STANDPOINT. FMG HAS BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH CONTINUING

CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND HAS FOLLOWED POLICIES WHICH IT
HOPED WOULD AVOID A REPEAT PERFORMANCE IN THE OTHER PARTS OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER, GIVEN INABILITY OF AFRICANS
THEMSELVES TO PREVENT THEM, RHODESIAN MILITARY INCURSIONS
INTO MOZAMBIQUE, IF CONTINUED, RUN THE RISK OF
RADICALIZING THE NIGERIAN POSITION ON THIS ISSUE JUST AS
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA
ID A YEAR AND A HALF
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